

The Abstract has been objected to based on the introductory language of the first line thereof. A new Abstract is attached to satisfy the Examiner's objection.

The specification is objected to based on a number of informalities cited by the Examiner. The cited informalities have been corrected by the foregoing amendments to the specification

Claims 1-9 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, for indefiniteness. Claims 1-3 have been amended to clarify the scope of these claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a generic hacksaw frame assembly and that the first mounting structure and the blade tensioning device are carried by the hacksaw frame assembly. Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the language "constructed and arranged." As claim 1 now stands, the blade tensioning device is "movable" to affect the relative tensioning and releasing movements, and the application of the rearwardly directed load to the forward end portion of the frame member is attributable to the recitation of "one of said first and second blade mounting structures being provided on said forward end portion of said frame member. Finally, the handle is recited as part of the generic hacksaw frame assembly and is "connected to said frame member for being manually grasped to enable performance of a cutting operation[.]"

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to define the term "below" as it is used with respect to the blade in terms of the hacksaw's orientation.

It is submitted that these claim amendments obviate the Examiner's §112, paragraph 2 rejections.

It is submitted that claim 4 properly recites "the circumference." The Examiner did not give any basis as to why the recitation of "the circumference" renders claim 4 unclear. It is requested that the Examiner clarify the basis for this rejection.

A Drawing Change Authorization Request is attached to satisfy the Examiner's objection to Figure 5. The Request adds reference numeral 58 with a lead like to the threaded member and adds an arrow on the lead like for reference numeral 50, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 23 is newly added and is submitted to read on the elected species of Figures 1-7.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Madison & Sutro, LLP

By: _____

Bryan P. Collins

Reg. No. 43560

Tel. No. (202) 861-3021

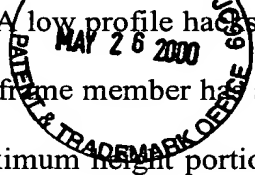


BPC/arr

1100 New York Avenue, NW
Ninth Floor, East Tower
Washington, DC 20005-3918
Fax No. (202) 822-0944

ABSTRACT

09

A low profile hacksaw comprising an elongated blade having a cutting edge. A rigid I-beam frame member has a forward end portion and a maximum height portion. Preferably, the maximum height portion is located at the rear end of the frame member, but it may be located intermediate the forward and rearward ends. The frame member has an arcuate portion which extends substantially the entire length between the forward end and maximum height portions and which curves downwardly and forwardly towards the forward end portion to provide the hacksaw with a low profile. A manually engageable handle is provided for manual grasping to enable performance of a cutting operation wherein the cutting edge of the tensioned blade is engaged with a work piece and moved forwardly and rearwardly to cut through the work piece. A releasable blade tensioning device provides a second blade mounting structure on which the other longitudinal end portion of the blade is removably mounted. The blade tensioning device is constructed and arranged to affect relative movement between the first and second blade mounting structures to tension the blade in the longitudinal direction thereof and thereby apply a rearwardly directed force to the forward end portion of the frame member. As a result, the rearwardly directed load applied to the forward end portion creates a bending moment which is distributed throughout and resisted by the frame member as a result of its curvature and I-beam configuration.